**Obama’s Anger and Emotion Translator**

**Read the following excerpt from Chapter 3 of Dreams from My Father (53-54):**

**“The father reminded me of Lolo somehow, and I looked down at the wood mask I was carrying in my hand. It was a gift from the Indonesian copilot, a friend of my mother’s who had led me away as she and Lolo and my new sister, Maya, stood by at the gate. I closed my eyes and pressed the mask to my face. The wood had a nutty, cinnamon smell, and I felt myself drifting back across oceans and over the clouds, into the violet horizons, back to the place where I had one been…**

**Someone shouted out my name. The mask dropped to my side, and with it my daydream, and I saw my grandparents again standing there, waving almost frantically now. This time I waved back; and then, without thinking, I brought the mask again up to my face, swaying my head in an odd little dance.”**

**Come up with two reasons why Obama places the mask over his face upon his return to Hawaii. Consider setting and other context information from the excerpt.**

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**Read and annotate “We Wear the Mask” poem by Paul Lawrence Dunbar.**

We wear the mask that grins and lies,

It hides our cheeks and shades our eyes,—

This debt we pay to human guile;

With torn and bleeding hearts we smile,

And mouth with myriad subtleties.

Why should the world be over-wise,

In counting all our tears and sighs?

Nay, let them only see us, while

       We wear the mask.

We smile, but, O great Christ, our cries

To thee from tortured souls arise.

We sing, but oh the clay is vile

Beneath our feet, and long the mile;

But let the world dream otherwise,

       We wear the mask!

**In 2-3 sentences explain what this poem is about:**

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**Based on the poem, what do you now think is the reason why Obama places the mask over his face upon his return to Hawaii. Consider setting and other context information from the excerpt.**

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**Now consider what emotions Barack Obama might have that he is hiding from himself and his readers.**

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**Watch this scene from Comedy Central to help you understand the role of an anger translator.**

**With your partner, choose a specific scene and an excerpt from chapter 3 that you feel is another example of how Obama hides his emotions behind a “mask.” Copy down the excerpt here and separate it into at least four different sentences:**

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**Now write the “translation of that text” sentence by sentence so that Obama’s true feelings and emotions are expressed and revealed. Use original language and Obama’s TRUE emotions and feelings. TAKE OFF the MASK.**

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